ISSUE 02

AGRIVIEW

MAY 2013 VOLUME 9

Growing Forward 2

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Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture

Minister's Message

Recently, our government signed the agreement to launch Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial agriculture policy framework. Growing Forward 2 will allow Saskatchewan producers and agribusinesses to benefit from a comprehensive suite of programs that covers business risk management and strategic initiatives for the next five years.

The federal and provincial governments are investing $388 million in strategic initiatives that will ensure the long-term sustainability and success of Saskatchewan's agricultural sector. Annual expenditures in Saskatchewan-delivered programming will exceed $70 million, an increase of approximately $25-million compared to the previous Growing Forward.

Over the past year I had the opportunity to consult extensively with industry representatives and with producers themselves on what was working, what needed to be improved and what was missing. As a result, Growing Forward 2 builds on past successes and focuses on the needs of our producers.

Programming will cover the key areas of:

- Agriculture Innovation, Research and Technology Transfer
- Environment
- Farm Business Management
- Rural Water Infrastructure
- Food Safety, Plant and Animal Health
- Value-Added Business Development
- Trade and Market Development
- Agriculture Awareness Initiatives

Growing Forward 2 programs contribute to the productivity, profitability and competitiveness of Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. Furthermore, this support to our industry will contribute to reaching the targets laid out in the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth. By working together, Saskatchewan will be able to increase crop production by 10 million tonnes; increase agri-food exports by 50 per cent; increase value-added opportunities; and make Saskatchewan a leader in the area of bioscience.

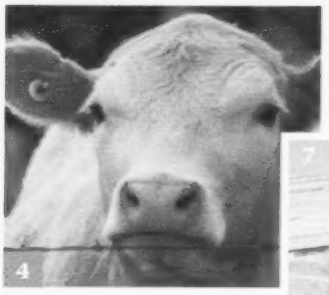
As I sign this policy framework that will guide the next five years of agriculture programs, I think about those who contributed to the process. For the past few years, producers, commodity groups and agribusiness representatives have answered the call to provide Growing Forward feedback. I want to thank each one of them for their time, dedication and commitment to the consultation process. All feedback was used to design this programming framework and it is through their hard work that I am confident Growing Forward 2 meets the needs of Saskatchewan's farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses, now and into the future.

I look forward to the innovation that Growing Forward 2 will support. Our province is already world-renowned as a reliable exporter of safe, high-quality food and as a source of new ideas in agriculture. We are on-track to maintain and grow our industry in a sustainable way.

Sincerely,

Lyle Stewart

STORY SNAPSHOTS



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Teaching farm safety early

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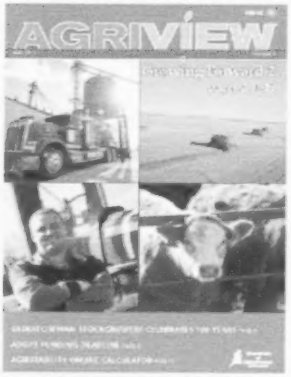


Cover: Growing Forward 2 (GF2) will guide the next five years of federal provincial agriculture programming. Turn to page nine for more information.

Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture

AGRIVIEW is published by the Communications Branch of Saskatchewan Agriculture for Saskatchewan farmers and farm and food organizations. **For more information, call (306) 787-5160 or email agriview@gov.sk.ca.**
To view this publication online, visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/programs-services.

Tick season in Saskatchewan

by Betty Althouse, DVM
Chief Veterinary Officer
Livestock Branch

You have found them on your dogs, your horses and yourself. What can you do about ticks, and what is the real risk that they carry serious diseases?

There are several different species of ticks, but the three species commonly encountered in Saskatchewan belong to the Dermacenter genus: the dog tick, the Rocky Mountain tick and the winter or moose tick. Tick populations seem to be moving further northward, and it has been suggested that a warming climate will extend their range further. Heavy infestations of ticks on an animal can cause blood loss, with anemia and weakness. Livestock treatments are available as sprays, powders and pour-ons for some species. Treatment should always be discussed with your veterinarian, as some products may be unsuitable for some animal species.

Black-legged tick. (photo: SK health)

Prevention is difficult, but avoiding tall grass and heavy brush during late spring can help. Check pets regularly. Ticks are best removed by grasping them with tweezers where they attach to the skin and firmly and steadily pull them off. For dogs, some long-acting preventive treatments are available. Never use any tick products in cats without checking with a veterinarian, as some products can kill cats.

Ticks can carry diseases, so animals should be monitored for signs of local swelling or infection at the site of bites, or for signs of general illness. Anaplasmosis in cattle is carried by Dermacenter ticks.

The more serious tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease and granulocytic anaplasmosis of people, horses and dogs are carried by an Ixodes tick called the black-legged tick. These ticks are much smaller than the Dermacenter ticks and are so far not established in the province. That means they do not complete their life-cycle here. However, individual infected ticks can fall off migrating birds and by chance transmit one of these more serious diseases. A few dogs and one horse have been diagnosed with black-legged-tick-transmitted diseases in Saskatchewan.

Some surveillance systems are in place to look for diseases in ticks. Ticks from horses can be submitted to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) and veterinarians are submitting ticks to researchers in the Biology department at the University of Saskatchewan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.inside.catvcs.int/veterinarians/equine_ticks.php; or
- For information on preventing ticks on your pets: www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoidthem_pets.html; or
- For information on how to stop ticks on people: www.cdc.gov/features/stopticks; or
- For information on life cycles of hard ticks that spread disease-Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/ticks/life_cycle_and_hosts.html.

BOVINE ANAPLASMOSIS

by Betty Althouse, DVM
Chief Veterinary Officer
Livestock Branch

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has recently announced changes to how they respond to anaplasmosis. Effective April 1, 2014, anaplasmosis will be removed from the list of reportable diseases and become an immediately notifiable disease. As an immediately notifiable disease, only laboratories will be required to report cases to the CFIA and the CFIA will no longer respond to anaplasmosis cases or conduct anaplasmosis surveillance.

Anaplasmosis is a disease caused by a micro-organism, Anaplasma marginale, which is a parasite of red blood cells. It affects domestic and wild ruminants, including cattle, sheep, goats and deer. However, of these, it only causes clinical signs in cattle. It is a different disease from human anaplasmosis.

While all ages of cattle can be infected, the severity of disease is age-dependent, with younger animals rarely showing illness and older animals having mortalities of up to 50 per cent. Clinically, cattle show fever and signs related to red blood cell destruction such as anemia, jaundice, weakness and respiratory distress.

Anaplasmosis spreads through the transfer of red blood cells from infected animals. Once infected, an animal remains a source of disease even after recovery. Ticks naturally spread the disease when they bite infected cattle and then bite other susceptible animals. The organism reproduces in the tick. The disease can be mechanically spread by biting flies, shared needles or blood-contaminated equipment, such as dehorners.

The disease is suspected based on clinical signs and history, but confirmation requires a laboratory test. Some Canadian labs are in the process of being accredited to perform the testing. There is no treatment for anaplasmosis approved for use in Canada yet, but treatment and preventive medication are used in the United States.

The "restricted feeder program", in place since 1997, allows U.S. cattle to be imported by licensed feedlots, without anaplasmosis testing, under specific conditions. That program will continue through to April 1, 2014, but after there will be no required import testing of any U.S. cattle of anaplasmosis.

Producers may consider testing their own animals if they have been in close proximity to an infected herd, or if buying animals from a high-risk area. Your veterinarian is a good source of advice on disease prevention and biosecurity.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the CFIA website at www.inspection.gc.ca; or
- Contact your local veterinarian.

Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association celebrates 100 Years

Submitted by Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association

A century of service is an impressive record of commitment. The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA), which is 100 years old in 2013, is reflecting on the significance of being the oldest functioning agricultural organization in the province.

"What we do today is basically the same thing we've been doing for one hundred years," says SSGA President Harold Martens. "Stock Growers works for the betterment of the industry with the goal of creating more value for individual producers."

At its founding convention in Moose Jaw in 1913, the SSGA established clear objectives to forward and safeguard legislation that would meet changing conditions and requirements for livestock producers. In that era, the major challenges of herd laws, fences and marketing took precedence as livestock producers fought to prove and sustain the value of animal production on the Prairies.

A lot has changed in 100 years, including the currently relevant issues, but the focus of SSGA remains steadfast. A well-recognized entity, the organization is called upon to serve on a wide range of cattle industry stakeholder boards, initiatives and advisory groups.

Martens and his board view the 100th anniversary as an important historical marker, while recognizing that the work of the organization is far from done.

"It's a significant milestone," Martens says. "I see it as an affirmation of the fact that we've remained true to our principles over 100 years. Not many agricultural organizations have been able to stand the test of time in the same way that SSGA and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association have done."

Join the "Riding for the Brand" Celebration

In the early days of cattle ranching, a brand became each ranch's trademark, representative of pride, duty and stewardship and inspired loyalty and commitment. In tribute to the ongoing commitment by SSGA and its members to the betterment of the cattle industry in Saskatchewan, "Riding for the Brand" has been chosen as the theme for the 100th annual general meeting and convention and the anniversary celebrations.

The SSGA 100th Annual General Meeting and Convention and anniversary celebrations will take place in Moose Jaw, where it all began, June 9 through 11, 2013.

Sunday, June 9 will provide the excitement of traditional ranch rodeo. Familiar brands will battle for top honours in a variety of working cowboy events, followed by a celebratory barbecue and old-fashioned barn dance.

The 100th Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, June 10 and 11 at the Moose Jaw Exhibition Company Convention Centre. The agenda will include speakers and timely industry topics. Enjoy an industry trade show and business networking, concluding with a gala anniversary banquet on Tuesday evening.

Plan to join in the celebration. For more information about becoming a delegate, sponsor or trade show exhibitor, contact the SSGA office at (306) 757-8523 or [illegible].

SPRING UPDATE TO THE 2013 GUIDE TO CROP PROTECTION AVAILABLE

by Clark Brenzil, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Weed Control
Crops Branch

The spring update to the *2013 Guide to Crop Protection* is available as of May 1 on the Saskatchewan Agriculture website. Keeping a printed copy of the spring update with your *2013 Guide to Crop Protection* will ensure that you have the most current information on pest control products at your finger tips heading into the growing season.

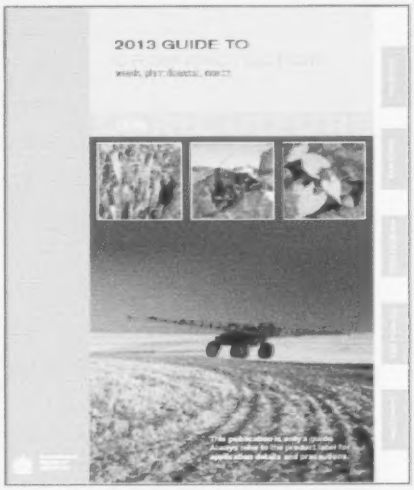
Crop protection products include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and seed treatments. The spring update to the *2013 Guide to Crop Protection* includes new products, as well as expanded uses of old products, that have been registered since the release of the *2013 Guide to Crop Protection* in January.

Download the electronic version of the spring update to the *2013 Guide to Crop Protection* or pick up printed copies at your closest Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office. Retailers of crop protection products may also choose to have printed copies of the spring update on hand.

To view or download the spring update to the *2013 Guide to Crop Protection*, go to the Saskatchewan Agriculture web site at [illegible] and click on the "Crops" and "Guide to Crop Protection" icons. Look for "spring update".

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

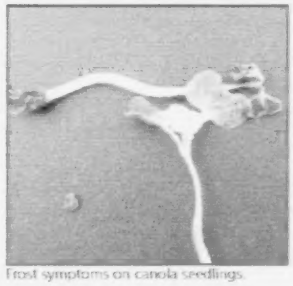


Evaluating frost damage to crops

by Sherrilyn Phelps, M.Sc., PAg, CCA
Regional Crops Specialist, North Battleford
Regional Services Branch

Frost damage occurs as moisture within the plant crystallizes and expands. This causes cell walls to rupture and fluid to leak out, hence the watery appearance of plant tissue or seed after a damaging frost. Spring frosts can damage germinating seedlings and knowing the location of the growing point (above or below ground) helps evaluate potential recovery.

With cereals, the growing point is below ground until approximately the five-leaf or jointing stage. This protects the plant from severe frost injury in the spring. The plants may lose above ground leaf matter but will re-grow from below ground. Partial injury can be seen when the tips of leaves or leaf edges become damaged, yellow and then turn brown and become brittle. Severe injury to cereals where all above-ground matter is damaged can result in a delay in maturity due to the plant having to regrow.



Frost symptoms on canola seedlings.

Flax is quite sensitive to frost when it is coming out of the ground, but as it grows it becomes more tolerant. Frost canker can be a problem with flax during early stages of growth and can reduce stands by as much as 50 per cent. Damage is most severe in thin stands on light soils and in low spots. Symptoms of frost canker are similar to heat canker. There will be plants or areas in the field where the plants have toppled over. At or near the soil surface, the plants will be girdled and have constricted stems.

The growing point with canola and mustard is above ground between the cotyledons. Newly emerged canola and mustard at the cotyledon stage can be very susceptible to spring frosts while plants at the three to four-leaf stage are more tolerant. A light frost that burns the leaves may not injure the growing point. To determine the viability of the damaged seedlings, the growing point needs to be green and viable and the stem healthy.

Peas and lentils have good frost tolerance as they have growing points (bracts) which remain below ground during early development. The above-ground material may be severely injured by frost but new growth will resume from the bracts.

New growth takes at least four days to be visible and often seven to 10 days is needed before the damage from frost can be truly evaluated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your Regional Crops Specialist or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

SEEDING AND SOIL TEMPERATURE CONSIDERATIONS

by Patrick Mooleki, PhD, PAg
Soil/Nutrient Management Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

Early seeding is a good management practice, but steps need to be taken to ensure a successful crop establishment.

Early-seeded crops have longer grain-filling periods and higher yields. They compete favourably with weeds, make better use of moisture, are likely to escape the heat periods during pollination and filling and are more likely to escape an early fall frost.

On the other hand, soil temperature may be low at seeding, resulting in slow seedling development and increased susceptibility to soil-borne diseases. Optimum soil temperature for germination and seedling establishment for most spring-seeded crops is 10 C or greater, but most crops will germinate at cooler temperatures. Wheat, barley, flax, mustard, lentil, pea and canola have performed well from early seeding, so one can start seeding when the soil temperature reaches about 5 C. Chickpeas require a warmer seedbed of about 7 C for desi and 10 C for kabuli types.

Monitor the temperature of the soil to ensure that you do not miss the earliest possible time for seeding. Measure the soil temperature at the seeding depth in the morning and afternoon and calculate the average to give you the daily average soil temperature. Take the measurements at about the five-centimetre depth. Shallower readings tend to fluctuate more with surface temperatures and may not be as reliable.

A successful crop starts with healthy seedlings. Ensure that you have low disease level in your seed lot with the highest germination and vigour available. Seed treatments provide extra protection to the seed and seedlings in early spring. Seed survival is reduced by cold temperatures. To counter this, you may have to increase your seeding rate.

Early seeding comes with increased risk of late-spring frost damage; however, because frost cannot be predicted, it should not be a factor in deciding when to seed. Fortunately, many crops have the ability to survive some frost damage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

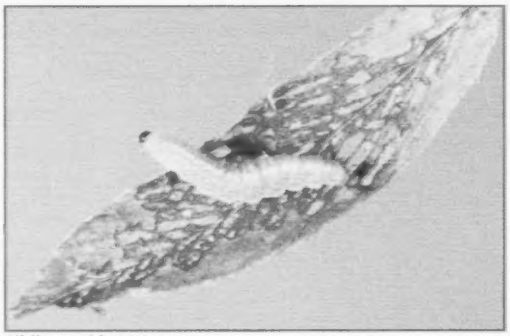
- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

Watch for alfalfa weevil in 2013

by Scott Hartley, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Insect and Vertebrate Pests
Crops Branch

Alfalfa weevil populations have been on the increase in Saskatchewan over the past few years. The distribution of this insect has also spread east and northward since first being identified in the Southwest Region of the province.

In recent years many of the economic infestations were reported from the eastern side of the province, but surveys of alfalfa crops from 2009 to 2012 show that the weevil can now be found throughout Saskatchewan, except for some fields sampled in the West Central and Northwest Regions.



Alfalfa weevil fourth instar.

Alfalfa weevil adults over-winter in vegetative debris or alfalfa stubble. Once alfalfa growth begins, the weevils begin feeding and lay eggs into the alfalfa stems. When the eggs hatch in one to three weeks, the larvae feed on new plant growth. High larval populations will cause the alfalfa field to have a silvery appearance as green material is eaten off the leaves. Peak feeding can occur from mid-June to mid-July. After going through several development stages, the larvae fall to the soil and pupate. A new generation of adults will emerge seven to 14 days later.

In alfalfa crops grown for hay, the most cost-effective method of managing weevil damage is to cut the crop before extensive feeding damage occurs. However, in recent years, there have been situations where larval populations have remained high after cutting. Damage to the new growth was significant and chemical control was also required. Two or more active larvae per crown, or four to eight larvae per square foot, may warrant insecticide application.

In alfalfa seed production, where cutting is not possible, economic thresholds are related to plant growth. An insecticide is recommended for alfalfa weevil if there is one larva per stem on a 30 centimetre alfalfa plant, two larvae per stem on a 40 centimetre plant or three larvae per stem on any plant. For more information on monitoring, economic thresholds and insecticide application please refer to the Ministry's *2013 Guide to Crop Protection*.

The survey of alfalfa crops was conducted by Ministry of Agriculture Regional Forage specialists. The survey was coordinated and samples were processed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Saskatoon) between late June and early July 2012.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Contact your local Regional Office.

CROP LAB UPDATE: HOW TO SUBMIT SAMPLES

by Cecilia Peluola, PhD, PAg
Supervisor, Crop Protection Laboratory
Crops Branch

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's Crop Protection Laboratory (CPL) is able to provide diagnostic services to the agricultural industry on most crop health problems. The lab's website, www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Crop_Protection_Lab, provides detailed information on the proper handling and submission of samples and diagnostic request forms. The following is a guide to help you prepare, submit and receive results from a sample.

Samples: Samples showing the whole plant as well as diseased portions are required for proper disease identification. For insect identification it is important to submit several specimens. If more than one developmental stage is present, then each should be submitted as part of the sample. Adult and larva stages are the best for identification if available. Weed identification requires a whole plant. Ideally, plants at different stages of maturity with different growing parts, such as flowers, fruits and seeds should be provided if they are available. Herbicide resistance (HR) testing requires approximately 1,000 seeds per sample for each HR grouping.

Packaging: Packaging must be done so as to maintain the original form of the sample as much as possible. Use of a rigid container helps to preserve delicate structures of the sample. Long distance or over-the-weekend samples must be dried if possible to avoid a spoiled sample. Suspected virus samples are better to be sent in fresh, as soon as possible.

Adequate Information: Properly completed forms ensure accurate diagnostic and assists in timely completion of the sample assessment and reporting.

Results: The results will be sent to the person who submitted the sample and if indicated a copy can be included for the grower. Electronic results are available by request.

Bill payment: Do not include money, cheque or credit card number with the completed form for your samples. An invoice will be sent out after the diagnostics are complete.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Crop_Protection_Lab; or
- Call (306) 787-8130.

Timely results will be obtained by submitting adequate samples and properly filled-out forms.

Canpressco – The creation of branded *Camelina sativa* oils

Canpressco Products Inc. (Canpressco) was conceived by a small group of Saskatchewan farmers with a passion for growing natural and healthy foods. Their dream was to add value to their Saskatchewan-grown products and create awareness among consumers about where their food comes from.

Renewed interest in an old-world oilseed, Camelina sativa, in Saskatchewan gave Canpressco an opportunity to exploit the plant's nutritional oil profile and educate consumers at the same time.

With financial support from the Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative (SAVI), Canpressco was able to put a face to its product and connect with consumers. They developed a brand and image for their products and created a tracking system that lets consumers see where in Saskatchewan their product was grown. Canpressco created product packaging and a website that shows customers how their product is grown and processed.

"SAVI enabled us to work with the design team that we knew would do the best job in helping us create our brand," said Natasha Vandenhurk, Canpressco's Director of Sales and Marketing. "SAVI helped us bring to market our finished product and introduce our brand to our customers through a well-designed website."

As the founding members of Canpressco were three farmers, it seemed appropriate to create a brand featuring them. The easily recognizable Three Farmers brand, combined with great products, has led to a consumer base that is as passionate about the healthiness of Three Farmers Camelina Oil as the company itself.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture provides business development funding through the Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative (SAVI) to help small- to medium-sized agribusinesses or producer/processor organizations that are involved in value-added processing of primary agricultural products. Up to $100,000 of funding is available to help in the areas of prototype and product development, marketing, systems improvements and training.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- on the products featured, visit http://threefarmers.ca;
- on the SAVI program, contact a Regional Farm Business Management Specialist near you; or
- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

NEXT ADOPT FUNDING DEADLINE IS JUNE 7, 2013

The Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) program provides funding to Saskatchewan-based producer groups to showcase recently-researched practices and technologies at the local and regional level. Producers can attend demonstrations and assess the merit of adopting new practices and technologies on their farms. These projects provide the opportunity to speed up the transfer of technology from the lab to the field.

Each year applications for projects are accepted in June and December. The December deadline is for projects that will start the following spring, while the June deadline is primarily intended for those projects planning a fall start. The next application deadline is **June 7, 2013**. Funding decisions are expected sometime in August.

If you have a practice or technology that you would like to see demonstrated in your region, contact a local producer group or one of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Regional Specialists before June 7 to discuss your ideas further. Application forms can be obtained through your nearest Regional Office.

Since it began in 2009, a total of 340 projects have been approved for funding through the ADOPT program. Successful demonstrations have been conducted throughout the province and featured at field days.

If you wish to view some of the 2013 ADOPT projects, please contact your Regional Office or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre for a list of demonstration sites in your area.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Kim Stonehouse, Regional Crops Specialist, Tisdale, at (306) 878-8807 or kim.stonehouse@gov.sk.ca; or
- Contact Jeff Braidek, ADOPT Program Manager, Saskatoon, at (306) 933-6016 or jeff.braidek@gov.sk.ca; or
- The Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/ADOPT.

ADOPT SEEDING SPEED DEMO

by Sherrilyn Phelps, PAg, MSc, CCA
Regional Crops Specialist, North Battleford
Regional Services Branch

A producer-led project funded by the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) program was implemented in 2011 and 2012 to demonstrate the effect of increased seeding speeds. Producers used their own equipment and seeded at various increments from three to seven miles per hour (mph), with a couple producers going even higher. Of the 28 sites, 27 were seeded to canola, and one seeded to wheat. Out of the 27 canola sites with usable data there were only four sites that had plant counts that were affected negatively by increased seeding speeds. In other words, 15 per cent of the canola sites saw plant populations drop as seeding speed was increased. The largest response was six plants per square metre loss for every mph increase in speed. With the one wheat site, there was no response to increased seeding speed.

This ADOPT project took place during years where there was excellent spring moisture and seeding depth was shallow. Under more adverse conditions such as drier soil or where deeper seeding is required, there could be more of an effect. The results of this project do not support a general increase in seeding speed as it is still recommended to seed in the normal range of four to five mph. However, when time constraints are playing a role and soil moisture conditions are excellent, producers may be able to increase their speed by one or two mph to ensure they can get their canola in on time.

In 2012 a small plot demonstration with Western Applied Research Corporation was also part of this project and showed that seeding depth was more critical than seeding speed. At this location there was no effect of seeding speed on plant stand but as seeding depth was increased from ¼ inch to two inches the number of canola plants dropped 30 per cent.

If 2013 is a wet spring and seeding is delayed, producers may want to consider increasing seeding speed by one mph. If considering the increase of seeding speeds, it is important to target good plant populations of 80 to 100 plants per square metre and ensure seeding depth is not compromised.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- on this project please contact Sherrilyn Phelps, Regional Crops Specialist at (306) 446-7475 or at sherrilyn.phelps@gov.sk.ca.

Growing Forward 2

Growing Forward 2 (GF2) is a policy and program framework that guides the next five years of federal-provincial agriculture programming. GF2 is a comprehensive suite of business risk management (BRM) programs and strategic initiatives designed through program reviews and extensive consultation with Saskatchewan's agriculture industry.

The federal and provincial governments are investing $388 million in strategic initiatives to support innovation, competitiveness and market access for Saskatchewan farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses. Growing Forward 2 will help Saskatchewan meet the agricultural targets of the provincial Growth Plan through strategic investment.

For more information on any Growing Forward 2 programs, please visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/growingforward2.

Agriculture Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer

As the world's population continues to grow, so does the need for food. In fact, economists believe that by the year 2050, the global population will rise to nine billion. Saskatchewan holds the resources that will make it a global leader in food production, security and innovation.

Saskatchewan has 43 per cent of Canada's arable land and a third of the Canadian biotechnology industry. Saskatchewan also contains many skilled researchers that ensure we continue to be a leader in agriculture research, innovation and technology transfer.

GF2 programs in this area will see a strong emphasis on:

- Operational support for research institutions;
- Funding for intellectual capital, thereby drawing top research scientists to Saskatchewan;
- Support for research projects that help us solve yield, pest and disease challenges that otherwise hold back the quantity and quality of our agricultural production; and
- Demonstration of new technologies and practices so farmers can observe and adopt new technologies that will make a positive impact on their operations.

Saskatchewan's research institutions are proof of the significant benefits of agriculture innovation. For example, the Crop Development Centre at the University of Saskatchewan has released close to 380 improved crop varieties to farmers since it was established in 1971.

Food Safety, Plant and Animal Health

Programs under this strategic area help producers with tools and education to keep crops and livestock healthy. Healthy crops and animals ensure that Saskatchewan continues to produce high-quality, safe products.

Saskatchewan is supporting industry in implementing nationally recognized food-safety systems. Under the Saskatchewan **On-Farm Food Safety Implementation Program**, provincial commodity groups can apply for funding to assist them in provincial-level food safety implementation efforts. Eligible commodity groups deliver all programming, including producer training, promotional activities and funding to producers for on-farm implementation. Producers do not have to be members of the organization in order to access programming.

The Saskatchewan **Livestock Traceability Rebate Program** assists livestock handlers, including producers, to implement traceability technologies. Rebates are available for the purchase and/or lease of traceability technologies, including new hand-held readers, panel readers, traceability software and traceability equipment training. Adoption of modern traceability technology supports enhanced trace-back capabilities and enhances the livestock management capabilities of producers.

Disease Surveillance and Management Initiatives will provide enhancements to timely animal and plant health monitoring. The program will support monitoring and detection of existing, new and emerging plant and animal diseases for their potential effects on production and human health.

The new **Comprehensive Pest Control Program** provides control measures for a number of persistent, costly and invasive agricultural pests such as problem rodents and invasive species. The Province works closely with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities to help Saskatchewan control pest populations.

Food safety and biosecurity help Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers produce high-quality, reliable products for the world. The **Livestock Biosecurity Program** will support industries, with and without national standards, to improve biosecurity practices. One example would be to assist with implementation of the new beef biosecurity guide. Funding will also support biosecurity awareness and education of best practices.

Growing Forward 2

Value-Added Business Development

Together, the programs under this area will help build and maintain a vibrant processing industry, benefitting producers, processors, and the entire agricultural sector, while increasing employment and economic activity in the province.

In Saskatchewan, agricultural commodities are generally targeted for export; however there is a growing capacity to add value to these commodities through processing. The **Saskatchewan Agri-Value Initiative (SAVI)** helps Saskatchewan agribusinesses to expand their value-added processing capacity, increasing their contribution to the provincial economy. Changes include adjusting the application categories, moving systems improvement activities to the new Saskatchewan LEAN Improvements in Manufacturing Program, and adding labour training enhancements. The enhanced training component will be accessible for processors with specific skilled labour needs.

Improving processing capacity is important. Additionally, new technologies or processes offer production efficiencies. The **Saskatchewan LEAN Improvements in Manufacturing (SLIM)** Program will provide financial support to bio-product, food and feed manufacturers to adopt best practices, new technologies and state-of-the-art processes that stimulate improvements in productivity and efficiency. These agribusinesses may choose to adopt any number of improvements, including processes automation and the adoption of LEAN manufacturing principles, technologies and processes.

Food safety is a priority for the Government of Saskatchewan. It is essential to ensure the health of Saskatchewan families, and to maintain the province's global reputation as a provider of safe, high-quality food. The **Food Safety Systems Program** is available to meat processing facilities wishing to enhance their food safety systems by upgrading facilities and equipment, or implement enhanced food-safety systems.

Farm Business Management

With the growth of the agriculture industry, it is important that producers have access to the latest farm business management information and training. GF2 programming in this area helps Saskatchewan producers become more efficient and productive.

The **Farm Business Development Initiative (FBDI)** will enhance farmers' and ranchers' farm management skills by providing assessment and planning tools for their operation. FBDI also provides financial support for training and consulting services.

Applicants will receive a higher cost-sharing ratio and a higher funding amount for training than under the original Growing Forward. Also, FBDI integrates former programming targeted at young producers (under 40 years of age) into a comprehensive program for all farmers. With an emphasis on training, young entrepreneurs will benefit from the enhanced FBDI.

The **Canada Community Pasture Transition Program** assists patrons of the Canada Community Pasture Program as they take over the federal community pastures they currently occupy. Government will support pasture patrons, who will maintain the land as an important grazing resource for Saskatchewan's cattle industry.

The program provides up to $80,000 in expenses to obtain professional legal and financial services to develop legal entities and operational business plans. The program also provides up to $40,000 to acquire technical services and management skills in areas such as human resources, land management, finances and adoption of new technologies. Patrons are eligible to receive 75 per cent of expenses up to the program maximums.

The program is available to current federal pasture patron groups and applicants are required to complete a Farm Development Plan and an Application for Benefits.

Programs such as FBDI and the Canada Community Pasture Transition Program will help farmers and ranchers to reduce their farm business risk, increase profitability and enhance their operation's stability, viability and sustainability.

Environment

The Environment area of GF2 is a continuation and improvement of programming that has been in place since 2004. There are three distinct parts to this program area, which contribute to the long-term sustainability and productivity of this province's diverse agricultural land base.

Environmental Farm Plans (EFP) are an education and awareness program in which producers assess their current farming practices to determine if any of their practices could be a risk to the environment. Over the life of GF2, producers will be encouraged to review and update existing EFPs to incorporate changes that have occurred on their farm and to look at new information that has been introduced into the EFP Workbook.

After these EFPs have been reviewed, producers can access the Farm Stewardship Program (FSP), an incentive program to implement Beneficial Management Practices (BMP). The BMP list has been revised to remove practices that now would be considered standard practice. New BMPs will be added over the life of the program.

Agri-Environmental Group Plans (AEGP) areas have been expanded to cover more of the province's agricultural land. A new, more equitable funding arrangement will be used to fund these groups. AEGPs will provide education and awareness to deal with environmental issues where action by all producers in an area can have a measurable impact. Based on developing a scan of their local area, AEGPs make use of local knowledge and governance to determine the top priorities in that area.

Growing Forward 2

Agriculture Awareness

Improving the perception of Agriculture is a strategic priority for the Ministry of Agriculture. The **Agriculture Awareness Initiative** was developed to help producer groups promote the benefits of agriculture and help improve the public perception of the industry.

Producers, commodity organizations, agribusinesses and agencies that wish to develop and execute agriculture awareness activities can access funds through the Initiative. A better understanding and appreciation of agriculture is critical in order to foster public support and growth for the industry.

The public needs to know:

- That Saskatchewan is a global leader, providing solutions to meet growing demand for food;
- That Saskatchewan producers are stewards of the environment, securing the land for future generations;
- That Saskatchewan provides safe and healthy food with proper livestock and crop care; and
- That in Saskatchewan, agriculture is a foundation for opportunity and many promising career paths.

Through agriculture awareness activities, we can improve the public perception of agriculture and achieve greater public understanding and support for the industry. And with this public support will come the investment, innovation and people needed to ensure producers are more competitive in a science-based regulatory environment.

The **Industry Organization Development Fund** also supports commodity groups in their communications efforts and initiatives. Through industry consultation, the Fund was designed to provide a source of financing for Saskatchewan producer associations, commissions and boards that want to develop organizational and communications tools. This will allow organizations to be competitive on a provincial scale and beyond.

Rural Water Infrastructure

The **Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP)** supports the development of secure water supplies, expanding irrigated acres, the livestock industry, encourages rural economic activity and mitigates the impacts of drought. Under GF2, FRWIP will be enhanced to include agribusinesses and non-district irrigators. Also, in an attempt to consolidate water-related programming, eligible projects have been expanded to include, well decommissioning, well-head protection and relocation of livestock watering facilities for environmental purposes, which were previously funded under the Farm Stewardship Program.

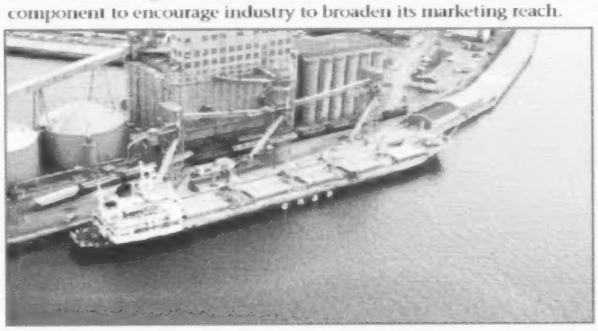
The enhancements to FRWIP, along with continued support for on-farm water development, will help support the sustainability and growth of farms, ranches and agribusinesses. Continued development of irrigation and water infrastructure for agricultural purposes are crucial to achieving provincial Growth Plan objectives.

Trade and Market Development

In 2012-13, the Ministry of Agriculture implemented a pilot program designed to support new international business development activities by the agriculture industry. The program provided financial support to expand and maintain international market presence, increase the number of trade missions coming into Saskatchewan, and to protect and expand market access for Saskatchewan.

For example, the Saskatoon Colostrum Company (SCC), was able to expand its export markets by successfully conducting three international trade missions. On these missions, SCC signed a distributor agreement initially worth tens of thousands of dollars with a company in Israel and formed a strategic alliance with a company in China, providing SCC access to the Chinese market.

This year, the **Market Development Program** is officially part of Growing Forward 2. The enhanced program will continue to support industry, keeping Saskatchewan competitive in international markets. The Program also includes a domestic marketing component to encourage industry to broaden its marketing reach.



Growing Forward 2

Growing Forward 2: Focusing on the long-term prosperity of Canadian Agriculture

by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

April 1, 2013, marked the official start of Canada's new agricultural policy framework: Growing Forward 2 (GF2). GF2 is a five-year, $3-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) governments that is the basis for co-ordinated activities and programs. GF2 helps Canadian and Saskatchewan agriculture become more competitive and innovative, while accessing new and existing markets. It includes three new federal programs that focus on long-term initiatives to further strengthen the agriculture sector's capacity to grow and compete globally.

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz says the new Growing Forward 2 programs build on the success of existing programs to provide more streamlined support to the sector and to help it remain a world leader in agricultural innovation and trade. GF2 ensures that farmers, and the entire sector, have the tools and resources they need to stay ahead of the ever-changing demands of consumers.

The three new, broad federal programs under Growing Forward 2 are AgriInnovation, AgriMarketing and AgriCompetitiveness.

AgriInnovation

This program is to serve as a catalyst for innovation by supporting research, development and the commercialization and adoption of new products and technologies. It also provides industry with access to the work and knowledge of the scientists and experts at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

AgriInnovation supports:

- Research and Development, leading to innovative agriculture, agri-food and agri-based practices, processes and products. It provides non-repayable support for two types of projects:
- The Agri-Science Cluster brings together a critical mass of scientific expertise from industry, academia and government. Clusters are national in scope.
- The Agri-Science Project supports a single research project or a smaller set of projects (compared to a cluster). Their focus can be national, regional or local.
- Commercialization, making repayable investments to for-profit corporations and co-operatives whose projects help to demonstrate or commercialize innovative agri-based products, processes, technologies and services.

For more information on AgriInnovation and how to apply please call 1-877-246-4682 or email AIP-PAI@agr.gc.ca.

AgriMarketing

The AgriMarketing Program is designed to strengthen the sector's competitiveness in domestic and international markets, by making investments that help industry gain access to new markets or maintain existing footholds in current markets.

AgriMarketing supports:

- Market Development, which aims to build and promote Canada's ability to expand domestic and export markets and to undertake promotional activities, helping position and differentiate Canadian products and producers.
- Assurance Systems, supporting the sector to meet buyer and market demands for assurance and to enhance its competitiveness domestically and abroad. This stream will support the development of national assurance systems and standards to strengthen the industry's capacity to make credible and verifiable assurance claims for Canadian products.

For more information on AgriMarketing and how to apply, please call 1-877-246-4682 or email [illegible] (for the Market Development), [illegible] (for the Assurance Systems).

AgriCompetitiveness

This program combines industry- and government-led initiatives designed to help industry adapt to rapidly changing and emerging domestic and global opportunities and issues. This will in turn support increased market responsiveness as well as business and entrepreneurial development and capacity. In addition, the objective of the AgriCompetitiveness program is to enhance the capacity of the sector to develop leadership, strategies, networks and tools for improving competitiveness, adapting to challenges, innovating and managing risk.

AgriCompetitiveness supports:

- Facilitating Sector Capacity: led by government to support the value-chain roundtables. This enables industry to collectively and strategically build capacity and leadership.
- Fostering Business Development: led by industry to allow agribusinesses to transition, adapt and improve their profitability and resilience by nurturing entrepreneurial capacity through the development of youth, young and established farmers, farm safety initiatives, skills and individual and industry leadership. Educational institutions and commodity organizations are not eligible for funding under this program as initial recipients.
- Facilitating and Supporting a Modern Regulatory Environment: led by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AgriCompetitiveness supports a modern regulatory environment by collaborating with industry and regulatory agencies and improving grower access to newer and more effective pest control tools for specialized crops through the Minor Use Pesticides Program.

For more information on AgriCompetitiveness, please call 1-877-246-4682.

Service Transformation

In addition to launching new, streamlined programs that help the sector adapt and compete more effectively, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is also improving service delivery through better program design and administration. This will make it easier for applicants to access programs and report results.

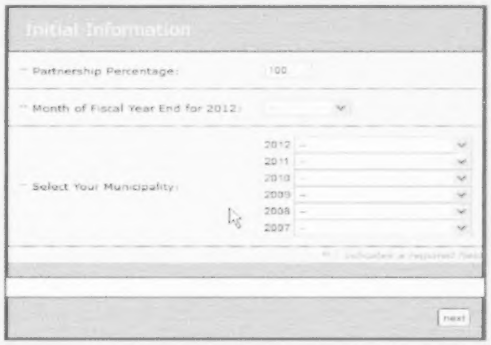
For more information on Growing Forward 2 and the three new federal programs, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward2.

Growing Forward 2

AgriStability Online Calculator

Effectively estimating your AgriStability benefit can be a challenge. However, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) has an online tool that can help. By visiting www.saskcropinsurance.com, producers or their accountants can access the AgriStability online calculator to help determine the potential of a benefit payment and its possible value.

The online calculator takes the producer or accountant through a step-by-step process. Similar to completing AgriStability forms, the online calculator requires the farm's production, expense and income information. Before using the calculator it is important to have on-hand, previous years' tax and AgriStability information.



Once the producer has entered all the necessary information, a final benefit calculation is made. This estimate can help understand the way AgriStability works, how benefits are triggered and the impact of one year's results on the future reference margin. While the online calculator relies on the data entered by the producer, no information that is entered is recorded or saved by SCIC.

It is extremely important the producer enters the information in the online calculator as they would when completing their AgriStability forms. This will help ensure the calculator produces a result that closely matches the actual final benefit calculation. Producers must remember though, while the calculator has been designed to provide an estimate of their potential AgriStability benefit, it does not guarantee receipt of a final benefit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the AgriStability call centre at 1-866-270-8450; or
- Try it out at www.saskcropinsurance.com/agristability/calculator.

BENEFITS WORKING FOR CROP INSURANCE CUSTOMERS

The Crop Insurance Program's Unseeded Acreage Benefit and Establishment Benefit covers producers from natural uncontrollable losses, such as excess moisture, that may occur this spring.

In 2013, Establishment Benefit values are increasing for canola and identity-preserved canola, from $50 to $60 per acre, and field peas, from $35 to $40 per acre. If the crop does not establish after seeding, producers may be eligible for a benefit.

Establishment is broadly defined as having a viable number of seeds or plants to produce a crop. This number varies from crop to crop. If there are fewer viable plants than the establishment guidelines, producers will receive a benefit. But if there are more viable plants, compensation will not be paid.

There is a third option though, the number of viable plants may place the crop in the choice range. This means it is up to the producer to decide whether to accept the Establishment Benefit, and subsequently destroy the crop (tilling, grazing, etc.), or leave the crop to be insured with full yield-loss coverage.

To be eligible for compensation, acres must be in an adjoining block of at least five acres. A minimum of 10 acres or 10 per cent of the total acres seeded to the insurable crop, whichever is less, must have failed to establish.

The deadline to submit an Establishment Benefit claim is June 20.

Unseeded Acreage (USA) Benefit

SCIC has worked to improve compensation for acres that are too wet to seed over the past few years. In 2011, the USA Benefit increased from $50 to $70 per eligible acre. Last year, SCIC introduced the USA Buy-Up Option which gave producers the option to purchase either $15 or $30 per acre in additional coverage.

Eligible acres are those that are normally seeded but remain unseeded by June 20 because of excess spring moisture.

A five per cent deductible and seeding intensity are applied to wet quarters. In 2013, SCIC will not apply an insurance intensity to USA claims. This continues an initiative introduced in 2012. Examples of claim calculations can be found online at www.saskcropinsurance.com or in *Your Complete Guide to Understanding Crop Insurance*.

With record coverage in 2013 and continued enhancements to the Crop Insurance Program, there will be no ad-hoc AgriRecovery Program for weather-related losses in 2013.

The deadline to submit a USA claim is June 25. Claims received between June 25 and July 2 will be subject to a 25 per cent reduction in payment, to a maximum of $1,000; claims will not be accepted after July 2.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your nearest Crop Insurance office;
- Call 1-888-935-0000; or
- Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com.

Regional Farm Business Management Specialists: helping you get the most from your business

Saskatchewan's economy is one of the strongest in the country. The agriculture industry and the farmers who drive its success are major contributors to provincial prosperity. Farmers are continually adapting, acquiring new knowledge and developing the skills needed to incorporate new farm management practices. This constant innovation is crucial, as it allows farmers to place themselves and their business in a position to capitalize on the thriving economy. Farmers can get advice and assistance in making changes to their business by meeting with their nearest Regional Farm Business Management Specialist.

One goal of the Regional Farm Business Management Specialists is to help farmers and ranchers prepare and respond to future opportunities and challenges, as they work towards long-term competitiveness, farm sustainability and adaptability. Regional Farm Business Management Specialists provide information on a regional basis, through publications, bulletins, workshops, news articles, webinars and individual consultation. Much of what the specialists offer is focused on the development of a sound farm business management plan and includes the areas of marketing, succession, financial planning, production economics, human resource issues, business structures as well as overall business strategy planning including environmental elements.

The specialists help deliver programs through the federal provincial agreement, Growing Forward 2. Regional farm business management specialists provide services, information and support for farmers who wish to access training or consulting services, apply for benefits or develop a farm plan. The regional offices work together with the Agriculture Knowledge Centre in Moose Jaw to respond to any producer inquiries such as land rental arrangements, custom work, cost of production calculations and any other topic related to farm business management. Regional Farm Business Management Specialists are a tremendous resource and can be used to aid farmers in all areas of farm management development.

Shankar Das, Regional Farm Business Management Specialist, Kindersley Regional office.

Contact your nearest Farm Business Management Specialist for information on how to improve your farm business.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your nearest Regional Office.

REGIONAL CROPS SPECIALISTS: ASSISTING YOU THROUGH AGRONOMIC ADVICE AND SOLUTIONS FOR CHALLENGES IN THE FIELD

Saskatchewan's agriculture industry is a major contributor to both farm-gate and value-added income. In 2012, Saskatchewan continued to lead the nation with more than $11 billion in agri-food exports. The top 10 agriculture exports were all from the crops sector. Canola was the leader at nearly $2.7 billion, followed closely by non-durum wheat at $2 billion. Wheat alone accounts for 40 per cent of the total annual crop acreage in the province. Saskatchewan has more than 40 per cent of Canada's cultivated acres, and many other crops have become important as global demand for food increases and producers diversify. Pulse production has increased significantly as well as specialized crops such as soybeans.

There are many factors producers must deal with in their farming operation including deciding what to grow. The agronomics that go along with different crops are unique to each farm. Factors such as soil type, fertility, crop rotations, disease and weed control, moisture conditions and many others can seem overwhelming at times. Regional Crops Specialists are a resource producers can access for assistance on all crop related issues. The 10 Regional Crops Specialists focus on solutions to the daily challenges facing those working in the field.

Another major goal of the Regional Crops Specialists is to work with industry, researchers and producers to address new and emerging technologies. They are heavily involved with helping producer groups with applied research and demonstration projects. This allows producers to assess first-hand new cropping technologies in their local area. The eight Agri-ARM sites around the province are a good example of this with each one having a summer field day, open to the public to showcase their work.

The Regional Crops Specialists are involved with yearly disease and insect surveys and are a great source of current information on insect and disease. One of their projects for this year is holding a crops diagnostic school to train agrologists and producers on insect and disease scouting, weed identification and herbicide damage.

Producers are encouraged to get to know their Regional Crops Specialist. They are well connected and can help with many of your cropping decisions.

Rory Cranston, Regional Crops Specialist, Outlook Regional Office.

Regional Forage Specialists: Bringing you the latest information on research and management

Regional Forage Specialists are available across the province to assist with all your forage information needs. You will find that Regional Forage Specialists can provide the latest information on forage varieties, agronomics, storage techniques, pasture assessments, marketing and management strategies. They will work with producers to customize a management plan or examine options tailored to suit the individual needs of the producer and their resources. As with all of the Regional Services Branch specialists, Forage Specialists are available for on-farm consultations to provide a customized approach.

Nadia Mori, Regional Forage Specialist, Watrous, completes a vegetation inventory of an ADOPT project on scentless chamomile to assess the effectiveness of control.

Regional Forage Specialists are closely linked with researchers and industry specialists, including experts at the University of Saskatchewan, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Centres, Agri-ARM sites, Saskatchewan Forage Council, the Western Beef Development Centre and several other industry associations. They collaborate on projects and events bringing the latest findings in forage research and trends in management practices to producers. Regional Forage Specialists provide opportunities to take part in field days and tours, allowing producers to see firsthand the results of projects on a field scale basis.

This summer, producers will have the opportunity to see several projects through the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) program.

Contact your local Regional Forage Specialist for all of your forage questions and more information on projects near you.

REGIONAL LIVESTOCK SPECIALISTS: PROVIDING THE LATEST INFORMATION ON HERD MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

The livestock industry is on a path of rapid change. Herd size, technology, genetics, management strategies and feed utilization are but a few of the factors producers work hard to keep up with. Regional Livestock Specialists located in each of the 10 regional offices are available to assist producers in making sense of the vast amount of information and technology.

Available for one-on-one consultations in the office or on the farm, they are there to help. This winter, Regional Livestock Specialists organized and spoke at more than 50 events held regionally and provincially. Highlights include the Breeding for Profit Heifer and Bull Selection workshops, CowBytes and SheepBytes ration balancing training, Introduction to Artificial Insemination course, Market Outlooks, Cattleman's Appreciation Nights and several Livestock and Forage Updates.

Of particular interest to beef cattle producers this coming year will be two Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) projects. They will look at Estrous Synchronization and Artificial Insemination in Commercial Beef Production, and Using Sexed Semen to Gender-Select Calves. Regional Livestock Specialists will work closely with producers to examine the incorporation and economics of these practices in the commercial beef herd setting.

Travis Peardon, Regional Livestock Specialist in Outlook, and a calf during a farm visit.

Your nearest Regional Livestock Specialist is available to help you determine which practices and technologies will be useful for your herd and operation.

Contact your local **Regional Office or Satellite Office** for any assistance you need with your operation:

Assiniboia Phone: 1-866-457-2377	**Meadow Lake** Phone: (306) 446-7962	**Outlook** Phone: (306) 867-5575	**Tisdale** Phone: (306) 878-8842	**Yorkton** Phone (306) 786-1531
Estevan Phone: (306) 848-2857	**Moose Jaw** Phone: 1-866-457-2377	**Prince Albert** Phone: (306) 953-2363	**Wadena** Phone: (306) 946-3230	
Kindersley Phone: (306) 463-5513	**Moosomin** Phone: (306) 786-1531	**Shaunavon** Phone: (306) 778-8285	**Watrous** Phone: (306) 946-3230	
Lloydminster Phone: (306) 446-7962	**North Battleford** Phone: (306) 446-7962	**Swift Current** Phone: (306) 778-8285	**Weyburn** Phone: (306) 848-2857	

EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	INTERNET
May 10 - 12, 2013	Spring Youth Appaloosa Show	Exhibition Grounds Moose Jaw, SK	306-545-2567	info@saskappy.ca
May 11 - 12, 2013	Clearview Arena High School Rodeo	Clearview Arena Fort Qu'Appelle, SK	306-332-1332	www.clearviewarena.com
May 21, 2013	Deadline to seed camelina in the brown soil zone. Deadline to seed all classes of chickpeas.		1-888-935-000	www.saskcropinsurance.com
May 31, 2013	Deadline to provide production contract information to Crop Insurance.		1-888-935-000	www.saskcropinsurance.com
May 31 - June 3, 2013	Lloydminster 4-H Expo	Exhibition Grounds Lloydminster, SK	306-825-5571	lloydexhibitionlloydexh.com

Farm Safety Days: Teaching children to be safe on the farm

by Glen Duck
Executive Director
Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions

The Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions (SAASE) is partnering with local Agriculture Societies and the Ministry of Agriculture to host nine Farm Safety Days in 2013. The goal of Farm Safety Days is to provide education to make farm life safer and healthier for children, their families and communities.

Agricultural Societies are well suited to host Farm Safety Days because they are already heavily involved in their communities in agricultural education and have the facilities to host such events. Farm Safety Days are made up of farm safety related stations which educate the children on a variety of farm safety topics.

SAASE is also working with the Progressive Agriculture Foundation and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association to host Farm Safety Days, thereby providing the event coordinators with access to the most up-to-date resource material and teaching aids for farm safety.

By training groups and people across the province on how to run Farm Safety Days, a great network will be developed which can be used for farm safety education in future years.

The Farm Safety Days for 2013 are scheduled as follows:

Biggar Agricultural Society - May 10
Lloydminster Exhibition - May 15
Saskatoon Prairieland Park - July 6
Kelvington Agricultural Society - August 2
Vanscoy Agricultural Society - September 17
Weyburn Agricultural Society - September 26
Yorkton Exhibition - December 6

Events have already been held in the communities of Swift Current and Prince Albert.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.saskaas.ca; or
- Contact your local farm safety committee.

Children being shown how to safely use an auger.

Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture